

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Tsutomu Okada

Examiner: Unassigned

Serial No: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

Filed: Herewith

Docket: 17307

For: HIGH FREQUENCY
SURGICAL INSTRUMENT

Dated: December 9, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

Sir:

Applicant in the above-identified application hereby claims the right of priority in connection with Title 35 U.S.C. § 119 and in support thereof, will submit in due course a certified copy of Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-361163, dated December 12, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,


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Dated: December 9, 2003


Thomas Spinelli